

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 16th February 2011 at 7 p.m. at Norton Canes Community Centre

Present: Cllrs: A.Gilbert R.Bishop
J.Bernard R.W.H.Wilkinson
A.Bernard
P.Z.Stretton
J.Bridgen
Mrs.L.Florence (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr.T.Hodges
Cllr.T.Hurl
Cllr.L.Bullock

5 Members of the Public were also in attendance.

97/2011 **Public Participation**

Problems with condition of Tip Island and surrounding roads

It was highlighted that there were continuing problems with the debris from lorries on the road surrounding the Tip island on both sides of the orbital road and it was felt that the general public should not suffer. Discussion ensued on the need for the lorries to have a washing facility to avoid this happening. Biffa should be approached about providing a washing facility.

Action: Clerk to contact Biffa/Highways/Cannock District Council regarding this issue.

Litter on Unadopted Road

Query raised as to whose responsibility it is to pick up litter along Kingswood Lake. The meeting was informed that it is the responsibility of the County Council who pay the District to undertake this work.

Action: Contact District Council re amount of litter in Newlands Lane.

Bus Shelter

Question raised as to when the new bus shelter was to be installed at Norton Green Lane. Clerk confirmed that she had received confirmation from the Company that this would be the end of February.

No 33 Bus Route

Question raised about the changes to the No. 33 bus route round Walsall Road/Norton Green Lane/Chapel Street. If this change happened this would leave the residents living in that area vulnerable as they would not have a service and would have to walk to the village to get a bus. Clarity was required as to whether the County Council were implementing a substitute service.

Action: Contact County Council regarding the issue.

Jerome School Sign

Query raised as to the sign for Jerome School which had been erected on the square. At previous meetings it had been suggested that a sign for St.James Church should be considered and it was suggested that no that there was a sign for the School could the Church sign also be included. It was agreed that this would not be something that the County or district would deal with and that it would be up to the Parish Council to look into this.

Action: Issue of sign to be an agenda item for Projects Committee.

Incident on Brownhills Road

The meeting was informed that there was an incident recently whereby a rope had put across the Brownhills Road which could have had serious implications. The resident concerned had tried to report this to the PSCO's and was asking whether this was mentioned in their report.

Railings on the bridge (Brownhills Road)

It was highlighted that the railings on the bridge are constantly being damaged and could this be looked at.

Action: Contact Cllr.J.Rowley to enlist his support in the repair or replacement of the railings.

Parish Council Notice Board

The use of the Parish Council Notice Board was raised. There was a view that this could not be used for the purpose of advertising for other organisations in the village and question raised as to the notices currently placed in there being out of date.

The Clerk stated that the notices had been removed and updated. There was no reason why any organisation could not advertise in the cubicle and that if they contacted the Clerk at the Parish Office then this could be arranged.

Public participation closed at 7.25 p.m.

98/2011 Declaration of Interest

Cllr.J.Bernard. – District and County Planning Committees
Cllr.J.Beddows – Koncas

99/2011 Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January were accepted as a true and accurate record apart from the following amendments.

Page 3: Cllr L.Bullock was not in attendance so his name should be removed from the Declarations of Interest.

Page 4: reference to Chief Inspector Chapman should read Inspector Chapman.

Proposed: Cllr.J.Beddows

Seconded: Cllr.A.Bernard

100/2011 Matters Arising from the minutes

Cema - This project is looking to enhance the health and well being of the community by the installation of fitness equipment on the Cema and generally improving the Cema area to include a pathway around the park to avoid people having to walk on the grass area which is uneven. The development may link to other areas of the village if this proves successful. This is being taken forward through the Friends of Norton Canes group but are requesting that the Parish Council support the initiative which may involve the time of the lengthsman in the checking of the equipment on a regular basis. This will be co-ordinated through the Projects Committee.

Burial Ground

A meeting has been arranged with the Lichfield Diocese and Father Hibbins for the 3rd March to take this issue forward.

Activities within the Village

There has been some letter in the Press from a resident of the village objected to the Parish Council using public funds for an event to celebrate the Royal Wedding. The Parish have been involved in looking at this but it was felt that the public need to accept that we cannot consult with all residents about how we spend the public purse but that residents should come forward through the right forum such as Public Participation at Council meetings to put their views forward giving Councillors an opportunity to

explain. Cllr Stretton highlighted the ideas that had been put forward for a fun day for the children of the village which would hopefully have a nil cost to the Parish.

101/2011 Chairman's Announcements:

(a) Public Paths Initiative

A letter had been received from the County council regard the Public Paths Initiative and requesting suggestions to be put forward.

Action: To be discussed at Projects Committee

102/2011 Police Report

Police provided a report for the meeting which the Clerk read out about the activities which had occurred since the last meeting (copy attached to Minutes). The Clerk confirmed that the Police are now using the Parish office on a more frequent basis.

103/2011 Reports from Councillors

Council Tax - Cllr Beddows informed the meeting that the District have recommended a nil increase for rates for this financial year.

Kingswood Lakes - The meeting was informed that Gt.Wyrley Parish Council have submitted some figures regarding this issue which will be put to County Council Planning Committee before decision made. It was confirmed that the District Council have rejected the application on the grounds of visual impact and health.

Funeral Directors - the Parish Office have received numerous calls and complaints about the new funeral directors that are operating as a business from the shops by the Co-op and Florists. Some discussion took place about the use of the shop and whether this would be offering front of house service or whether they will be using it as a chapel of rest/mortuary. It was felt that if there was a change of use for the premises then this would require planning permission.

Action: Clerk to contact J.Hemminsley re planning permission.

Koncas Report – Cllr.J.Beddows read out a report sent by Koncas outlining the activities of the Project and the arrangements for the new Management Committee from the 1st March 2011.

104/2011 Authorisation of Accounts

The accounts for February which had been circulated were agreed.

Proposed: Cllr.J.Bernard
Seconded: Cllr.Z.Stretton

105/2011 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 7 p.m.

Signed: Dated: